

CONFIDENTIAL

DD/ST#

2255-65

14 MAY 1965

25X1A

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

ATTENTION: [REDACTED] Action Staff

SUBJECT: Exchange of Scientific and Technical Information

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REFERENCE: Request of [REDACTED], LS/OCR for comments on HEW Memorandum, dated 30 April 1965, Subject: Scientific and Technical Data in Machine-readable Form

1. In any discussion on the exchange of scientific information between the United States and other countries, the interests and practices of Free World nations must be distinguished from those of Communist countries, and the resources of all nations for generating and disseminating such information must be adequately considered. Also, it is assumed that the concern referred to in reference memorandum is directed towards the failure of foreign nations to disseminate all available unclassified information and not information that is of a proprietary or classified nature. In the case of non-Communist nations, a large amount of foreign scientific and technical information presently is being made available to the United States. We do not know, however, whether or not such nations are disseminating all releasable information.

2. Much of the Soviet Bloc scientific and technical information currently is available in open literature. Here again we are not in a position to indicate how much information the Soviets and other Communist nations are withholding. As you undoubtedly know, all of our requirements for the acquisition of Soviet scientific and technical publications have not been satisfied. Personnel in OCR Acquisitions probably have some idea of the scientific and technical publications which the Soviets very seldom or never make available to the West and which reflect areas of interest on which information is desired. Hence, it would appear that US special resources might very well be used to influence the increase of scientific information from Soviet Bloc nations.

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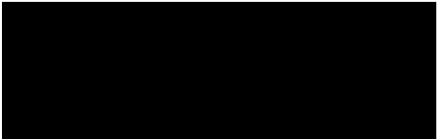
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SUBJECT: Exchange of Scientific and Technical Information

3. The value of US special resources of automated records of health and other data together with the country's past and current efforts to make available scientific and technical information to foreign nations are recognized widely. Hence, it would seem that any decision of the US government to restrict the flow of unclassified information to Free World nations would thwart not only the scientific and technical efforts of friendly nations but also, indirectly, the legitimate interests of US personnel engaged in significant research and development. Also, the ever increasing scientific and technical capabilities of foreign nations and their improving faculties for providing information for world-wide consumption should not be minimized. Although the outflow of information may be decidedly one way at present, many foreign nations may be in a position in the future to provide increasingly for US scientific and technical information needs.

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Executive Officer  
Scientific Intelligence

Distribution:

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OSI/IPS/  djh:5511 (13 May 1965)

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18 May 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Assistant Director/ORD/DD/S&T

THROUGH : Technical Manager/LS/ORD/DD/S&T

SUBJECT : Scientific and Technical Data in Machine-Readable  
Form

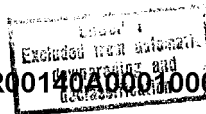
1. I agree that current exchange of scientific information between the U. S. and certain foreign countries is now out of balance in that most of the information is outgoing from the U. S. and a limited amount is incoming.

2. In an attempt to partially correct this, there is now a policy governing U. S. government research scientists under which they are required to request reprints of research publications in return from those foreign scientists to whom they send reprints upon request. This involves a mere drop in the bucket of the total exchange, however.

3. There is, I believe, some sort of working agreement between the U. S. Academy of Science and various foreign academies for exchange of scientific information between various U. S. universities, libraries, and publishing houses and various foreign publishing houses for specific journals. I have seen a list of the U. S. sources officially made available to one of the Bloc countries in the field of medical research, and I assume this to be an example of these exchange agreements.

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SUBJECT: Scientific and Technical Data in Machine-Readable Form

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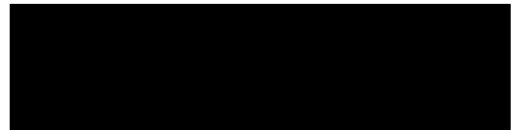


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5. I feel certain that some sort of agreement has now been reached [redacted] with other countries on scientific literature exchanges but I doubt if they included making *available* large volume bibliographic and indexing information beyond that now being made available through Index Medicus, Chem Abstracts, and other such indexing and abstracting periodicals.

6. Concerning U. S. bargaining power, I suggest that HEW obtain copies of all existing agreements, and check with the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution on their agreements, if any, which might supplement any held by the Academy.

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DD/ST# 2501-65

21 May 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Central Reference

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SUBJECT : [REDACTED] Letter on [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] asked me to supplement comments already forwarded to you by DD/S&T.

All of the bibliographic information contained on NLM's computer tapes is also printed in the Index Medicus. I feel certain that copies of the Index Medicus are acquired regularly by many foreign institutions through normal book procurement channels.

The usefulness of the computer tapes to foreign organizations resides in two areas: (1) the ability to electrically transmit the information from one point to another, and; (2) the ability to perform sophisticated searches of the bibliographic data as required. I believe, therefore, that the tapes should be exchanged on a quid pro quo basis awaiting the time when foreign organizations can exchange equivalent computer tapes on their literature with the U.S. This policy in no way denies them access to the information because of the availability of the Index Medicus. The policy would, however, provide a means whereby a balanced exchange can be maintained.

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JOSEPH BECKER  
Assistant Director,  
Computer Services

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✓cc: [REDACTED]